



## **THE JUDGING PROCESS**

- The Overture Awards hires arts professionals in each discipline to serve as judges.
- Since each discipline can vary in style, each judge on the panel usually has a different area of expertise. (Most panels have three judges.)
- Most judges work in the Greater Cincinnati area. However, occasionally the Overture Awards will hire judges from outside the immediate region.
- Judges are not allowed to adjudicate their own students or if they know the competitor. If this occurs, the judge chair will replace the judge on the panel.
- Each discipline has a judging form that the judges fill out and score the competitors.
- Judges are also given the Criteria for each discipline to use as a reference.
- For the Regional Competition, the top 20% of competitors with the highest scores advance. If the scores are tied or close, the judges determine who will advance.
- For the Semi-Final Competition, the judges fill out a judge form and score the competitors. Afterwards the scores are compared to see which competitors will advance to the Finals. If the scores are tied or close, the judges discuss who the finalists should be.
- For the Final Competition, the judges are given a form to make comments about each competitor and then rank the finalists. Afterwards, they compare their rankings and select a scholarship winner.
- Who advances in each level of the competition is the sole discretion of the judging panel. Neither Cincinnati Arts Association staff nor its volunteers are involved with the selection process.